HOSANA
TANAKA
NINJA
GIRLS
1

Ninja Girls

1

Hosana Tanaka

Translated and adapted by
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North Market Street Graphics

DEL REY
Ballantine Books * New York

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A Del Rey Manga/Kodansha Trade Paperback Original

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Published in the United States by Del Rey, an imprint of The Random House Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc., New York.

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Publication rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd.

First published in Japan in 2006 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo, as *Rappi Rangai*, volume 1

ISBN 978-0-345-51242-0

Printed in the United States of America

www.delreymanga.com

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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HONORIFICS EXPLAINED

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/ Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

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Ninja Girls

Hosana Tanaka

Ninja Girls
Volume 1

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THUD

SNAP

DID YOU SEE MY IGA-NINPO "SHINTAIGO"!?

.....

K-KAGARI-DONO!?

STAY THERE...

...AND WATCH ME, MY LORD!

1 Encounter Rebellion

ROOOOOOOAR

SENGOKU ERA

THERE'S STILL SMOKE.

CLENCH

IT'S TRUE!

THOSE INVADERS WERE SO CRUEL...

...HIS WHOLE FAMILY WAS MASSA-CRED.

THE FEUDAL LORD OF THE KATANA FAMILY COMMITTED SUICIDE...

THEIR FIELDS WERE DESTROYED AND THE INVADERS CARRIED OFF ALL THEIR WOMEN!

IDIOT! THE ONES YOU SHOULD FEEL SORRY FOR ARE THOSE IN THE NEXT TOWN!

IT WAS TERRIBLE...

...THE DEMON-CHILD FROM THE NEXT VIL-LAGE!

YOU'RE...

!?

ALL RIGHT, I'LL BUY.

...CAN YOU BUY IT?

IT CAN'T BE USED ANY-MORE IN MY VILLAGE...

FIRE-WOOD, YOU SAY?

LET'S TIE HIM UP AND THROW HIM OUT!

WHY'VE YOU COME HERE!?

WHAAAT!?!

JUST TAKE SOME OF THOSE SCRAP VEGE-TABLES OVER THERE!

?

UH, WITH *WHAT?*

AHHH! WAIT, WAIT!

STAY BACK, CHIL-DREN!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WE'RE TRYING TO HELP SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FIELDS LEFT!

FWWMP

THUD

THUD

YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH IT, MON-STER!?

AHH!

OW, OW!

...THEN I SUPPOSE WE HAVE A DEAL?

IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, GO HOME!

!

IT'S THE DEMON-CHILD!!

GROSS!!

I'M SCARED!

WHOA! HE REALLY DOES HAVE A HORN!

FSSH

HE LOOKED AT MEEEE!!

EWWW!!

BESIDES THAT HOW AM I ANY DIFFERENT FROM YOU!?

WHO CARES IF I HAVE A HORN OR TWO!?

DON'T COME HERE AGAIN!

SNEER

PLEASE BUY AGAIN!

BOW

BOW

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSI-NESS!

HE *WISHED* HE COULD'VE SAID THAT, BUT HE DIDN'T, AND NEVER HAS.

RAIZŌ CAN NO LONGER BEAR THIS!

MOTHER!

CHIIIINGG

PLEASE LET ME TODAY...

RATTLE RATTLE

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE!

...AND I'VE PRO-TECTED THIS HORN JUST AS YOU TOLD ME TO, BUT—!

IT'S BEEN FIFTEEN YEARS SINCE I WAS BORN...

PLOP

TODAY... IS THE DAY I...

FLOP

FLOP

UGHH

Y-YOU CAN'T STOP ME, MOTHER...

AND NOW...

THWACK

...I'M A NORMAL HUMAN!!

FSSHHH

SCRAPE

SCRAPE

SCRAPE

ALL RIGHT!

AH, NEVER MIND.

AAAAHHHHH!

WHAT WAS THAT?

CRASH

THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.

MUTTER

I HAVE NO FAMILY...

THUMP

...SO IF I LOSE MY HORN, I'LL HAVE NOTHING LEFT.

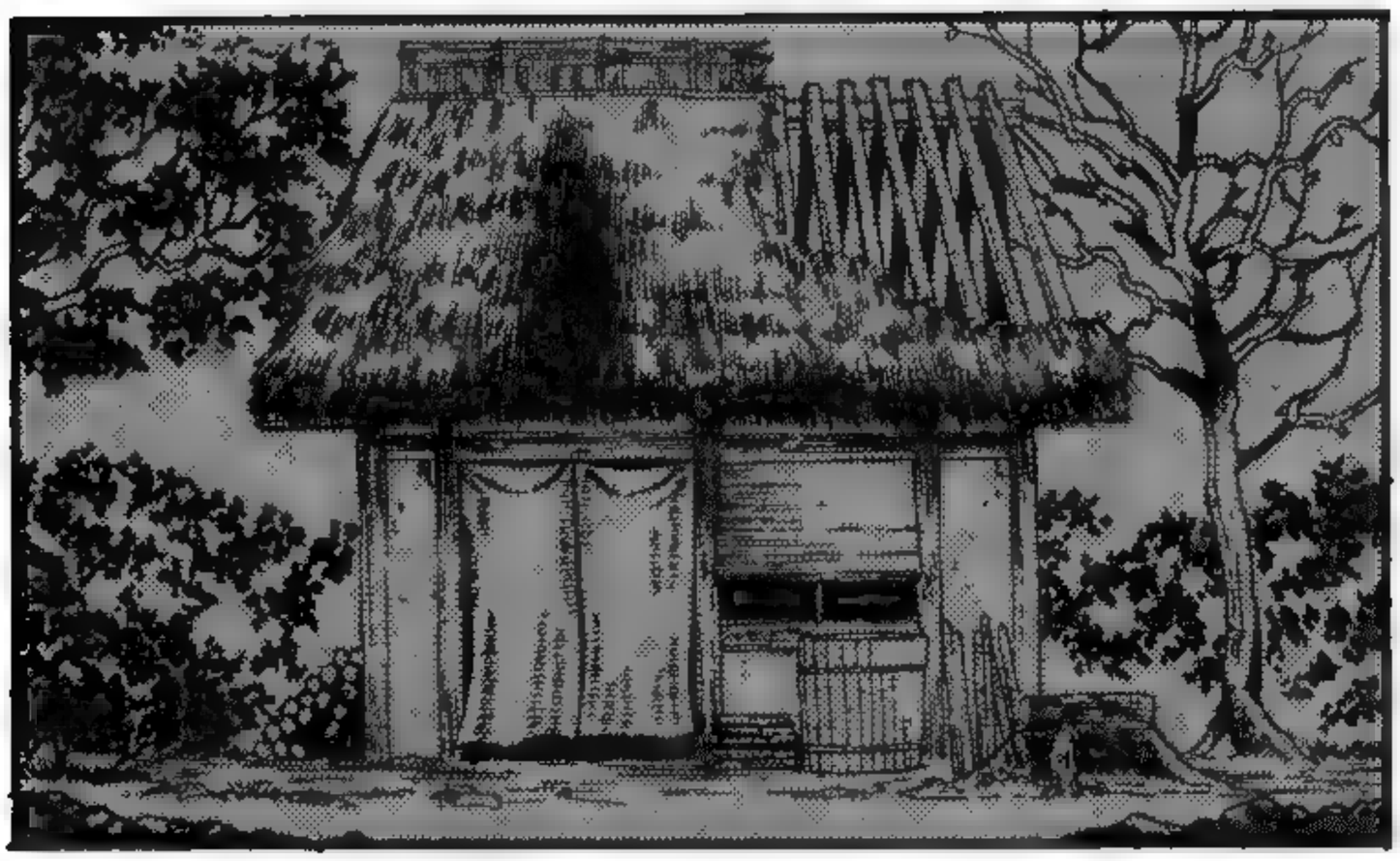
まじ
STARE
まじ
...HH!

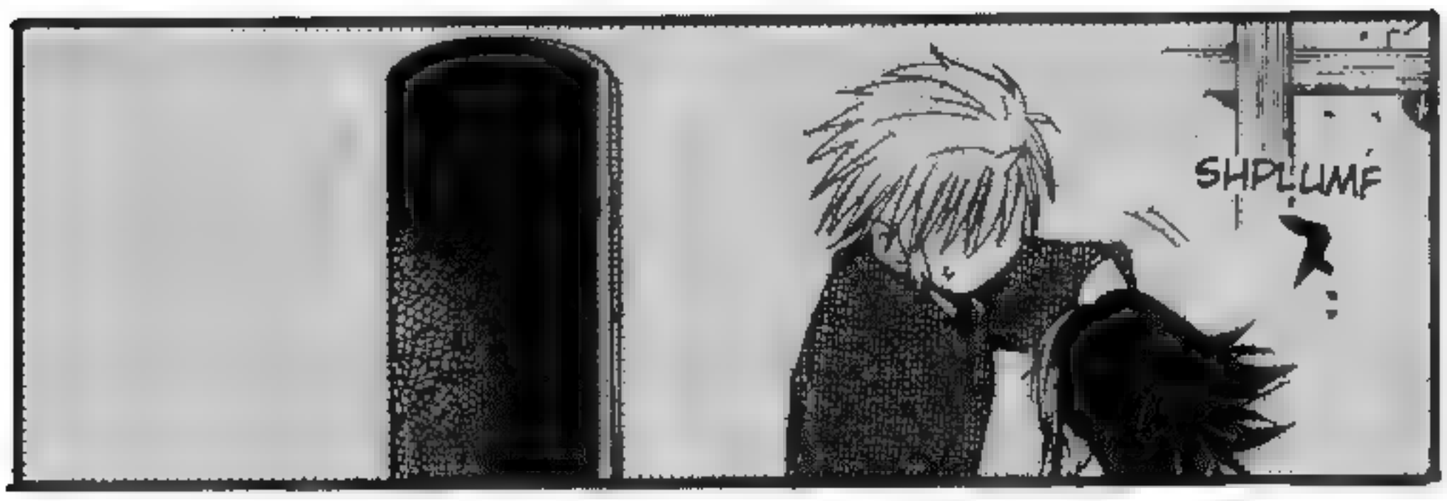
は
GASP
っ

IS SHE ALIVE?

TWITCH
ピク
ピク

A...
...WOMAN?

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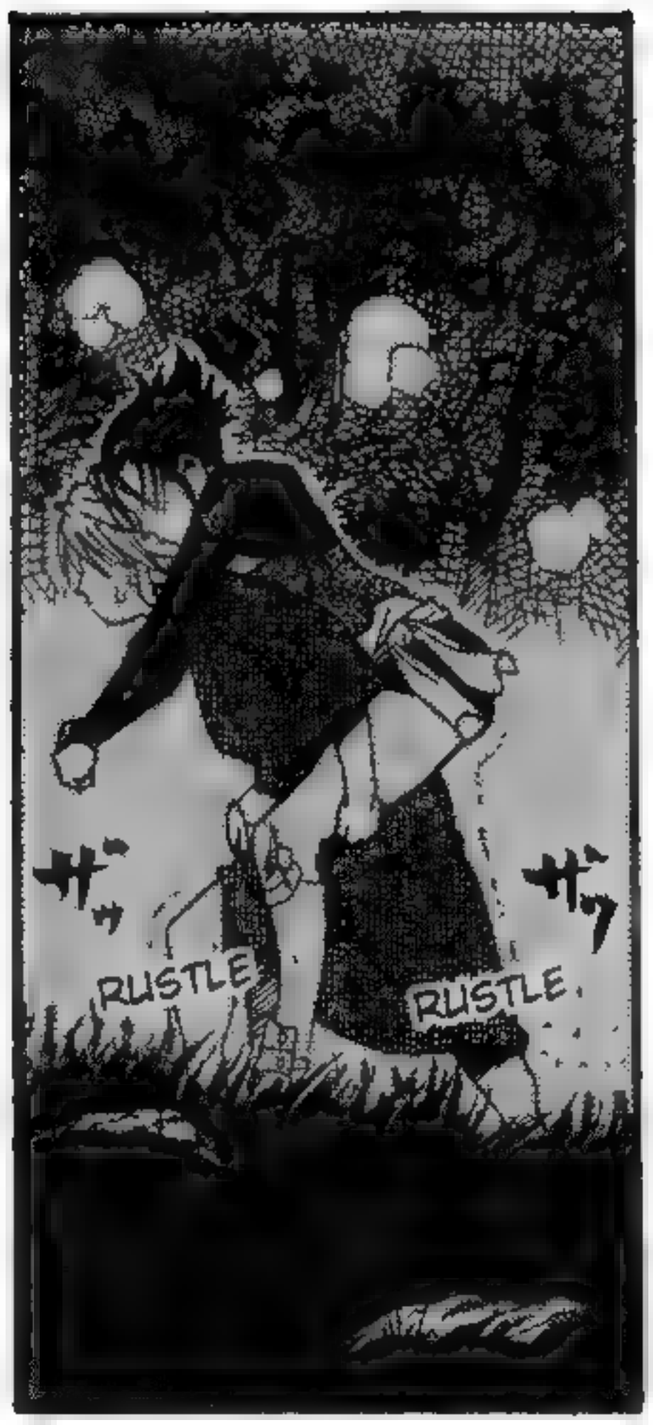

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

I COULDN'T LEAVE HER ALONE, SO I BROUGHT HER HOME...
WHAT SHOULD I DO!?

OH, NO! SHE'S CHOKING!
COUGH

COUGH COUGH COUGH

WHEW, YOU SPIT UP THE WATER!

HACK HACK

TWO! ONE!

ドキ TH-THUMP

ドキ PUMP

WHOA, WHAT A HIGH FEVER!

TREMBLE ぶる

I'M SO SORRY!

SO I GUESS ...

I CAN'T LET HER KEEP THOSE WET CLOTHES ON ...

I DON'T HAVE ANY EXTRA CLOTHES HERE!!

"FEEDING HER WITH MY MOUTH"?

I GUESS THIS CALLS FOR...

GULP GULP GULP

AHH!

THUD

HERE'S SOME SAKÉ!

DRIP

SHE WON'T DRINK IT!

HERE!

IF I MAKE HER DRINK, IT'LL WARM HER UP A LITTLE!

SHE DRANK IT...

WHOOSH

...I'VE NEVER TOUCHED SOMEONE LIKE THIS BEFORE...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...

CRACKLE

...SOMEONE AS PRETTY AS HER.

NOT TO MENTION...

!

OW!

SCRUB ゴシゴシ SCRUB

I GUESS I SHOULD WASH HER CLOTHES BEFORE THEN.

I WONDER WHEN SHE'LL WAKE UP. ♡

CHIRP CHIRP

KYAAAAA!!

WH-WHAT IS THIS!?

PANT PANT

TATTER TATTER

CLINK CLINK

FIRST: WHERE AM I AND WHO ARE YOU!?

AND

SECOND: WHY AM I NAKED!?

boo

WHAT TH—?

THWONG

AHH!

SNARL

JUST ANSWER MY QUES-TIONS...

DON'T MOVE...

AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOP-MENT!

...I MIGHT HAVE TO CUT YOU!

DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWER...

HEH HEH

SAKÉ?

WHILE I WAS SLEEP-ING!?

YOU DID IT WITH YOUR MOUTH!?

WHICH MEANS...

?

WHAT'S WRONG?

OWWW!!

I THINK IT'S A HANG-OVER...

I MADE YOU DRINK SAKÉ...

MY HEAD IS KILLING ME...

WAIT, WAIT! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!

UH-OH!

WAAAAAH

HOW DARE YOU!?

FOR NOW...

...WEAR MY CLOTHES!

NOOO!

GET AWAY FROM ME!

WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO TO CALM A CRYING GIRL?

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO CLEAR THIS UP?

STRIPPING!

I SUPPOSE...

WHAT THE-!?

...A-AND I WAS NAKED BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR ME TO CHANGE INTO?

YOU MADE ME DRINK SAKÉ TO WARM ME UP...

YOU TOOK OFF MY CLOTHES SO I WOULDN'T GET COLDER.

TH-THAT'S RIGHT.

I UNDER-STAND.

THEN I SUPPOSE YOU SAVED MY LIFE.

!

I DON'T THINK IT WOULD HAVE HELPED!

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO OFFER YOU...

...BUT I CAN AT LEAST MAKE SOME FOOD.

A-ANY-WAY...

I'M KAGARI.

I'M INDEBTED TO YOU, RAIZÔ-DONO.

R-RAIZÔ.

ADORABLE!!

そそ

BOW.

A-...

THIS IS SO GOOD! ♡

NUM

NUM

DELI-CIOUS! ♡

I'M SORRY...

...THIS IS ALL I HAD.

WHAT DOES SHE NORMALLY EAT?

I'M HAPPY, THOUGH...

じ——ん

THROB

I HAVEN'T HAD SUCH DELICIOUS FOOD IN A LONG TIME! ♡

WHAT?

WELL, IT SEEMS YOUR FEVER'S DOWN...

...THAT'S SO GREAT!

!

TH-THUMP

YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR ME.

YOU'RE SO KIND, RAIZŌ-DONO.

ERR... NOTHING.

WHAT'S WRONG?

HOW COULD I BE POPULAR WITH THEM IF THEY WON'T EVEN MAKE EYE CONTACT!?

PANT

PANT

SLASH

SNAP

YOU MUST BE POPULAR WITH THE LADIES!

WE ENDED UP FIGHTING, BUT IN THE END THEY OUTNUMBERED ME, SO I TRIED TO HIDE IN THE RIVER UNTIL THEY LEFT.

I WAS SEARCH-ING FOR SOMEONE WHEN I WAS PURSUED BY WARRIORS.

CHANGE THE SUB-JECT...

WH-WHY WERE YOU PASSED OUT BY THE RIVER, KAGARI-DONO?

THROB

OH, THAT?

DON'T LAUGH!

PFFT

AND THEN YOU *DROWNED*!?

WELL...

I'M A LOT STRONGER THAN THIS!

CLENCH

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE IT WHEN I LOOK LIKE THIS, BUT I'M THE MASTER OF A SPECIAL ART CALLED "SHINTAIGO"!

AH, I-I'M SORRY! I WON'T LAUGH ANYMORE!

WHO WERE YOU LOOKING FOR?

OUCH

SO WARRIORS WERE FOLLOWING YOU?

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT A YOUNG BOY WHO HAS A HORN GROWING FROM HIS HEAD?

IS THAT SO?

THAT HAS TO BE THAT DEMON-CHILD FROM SHIMOTSUGE!

YEAH, WE KNOW HIM.

CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT HIM?

BUT MIGHTY WAR-RIOR...

...WHAT HAS THE DEMON-CHILD DONE?

ALL RIGHT, THEN.

MAKE SURE YOU SAY NO MORE ABOUT THIS MATTER.

SLASH

I SAID TO SHUT YOUR MOUTH.

...AS SOON AS YOU SEE MY HORN, YOU'LL...

EVEN IF I'M THE ONE YOU'RE SEARCH-ING FOR...

DRIP

I CAN'T TELL HER.

AARGHHHH!

GET AWAY FROM MEEEE!!

EWWWW! GROOOOSSS!

CLATTER CLATTER

MMM... MUMBLE

CLUNK CLUNK

THUMP

THAT'S RIGHT! WHILE KAGARI-DONO'S SLEEPING, I SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THE HORN!

KONK

TODAY'S THE DAY!

SCRAPE

I'LL BE HUMAN!

YOU CAN'T STOP ME, MOTHER!

CHIRP CHIRP

RATTLE

カッポ
CLOP-
CLOP

カッポ
CLOP-
CLOP

カッポ
CLOP-
CLOP

ガシ

FSSHH

IT'S THE WARRIORS!

ZZZZ

KAGARI-DONO!

WAKE UP!

NUM NUM... I'M SO FULL...

THIS IS NO TIME TO BE SLEEPY!!

I'LL TAKE THEM ON...

...AND STALL THEM FOR YOU!

HURRY, BEFORE THEY FIND YOU!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, RAIZÔ-DONO?

!

MAYBE THEY'RE THE ONES WHO FOLLOWED YOU!

I'LL GO FACE THEM!

SERI-OUSLY !?

IF THEY FIND ME, THEY'LL KILL YOU!

YOU CAN'T!

KYAAAA!

SMACK

NOOOOO!

THEY WON'T BOTHER WITH SOMEONE WHO JUST LIVES UP IN THE MOUNTAINS LIKE ME!

TREMBLE

I-I'LL BE FINE!

SO, KAGARI-DONO...

TREMBLE

.....

SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO'S EVER TREATED ME LIKE A HUMAN.

YOU...

...WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND EVEN IF I TOLD YOU.

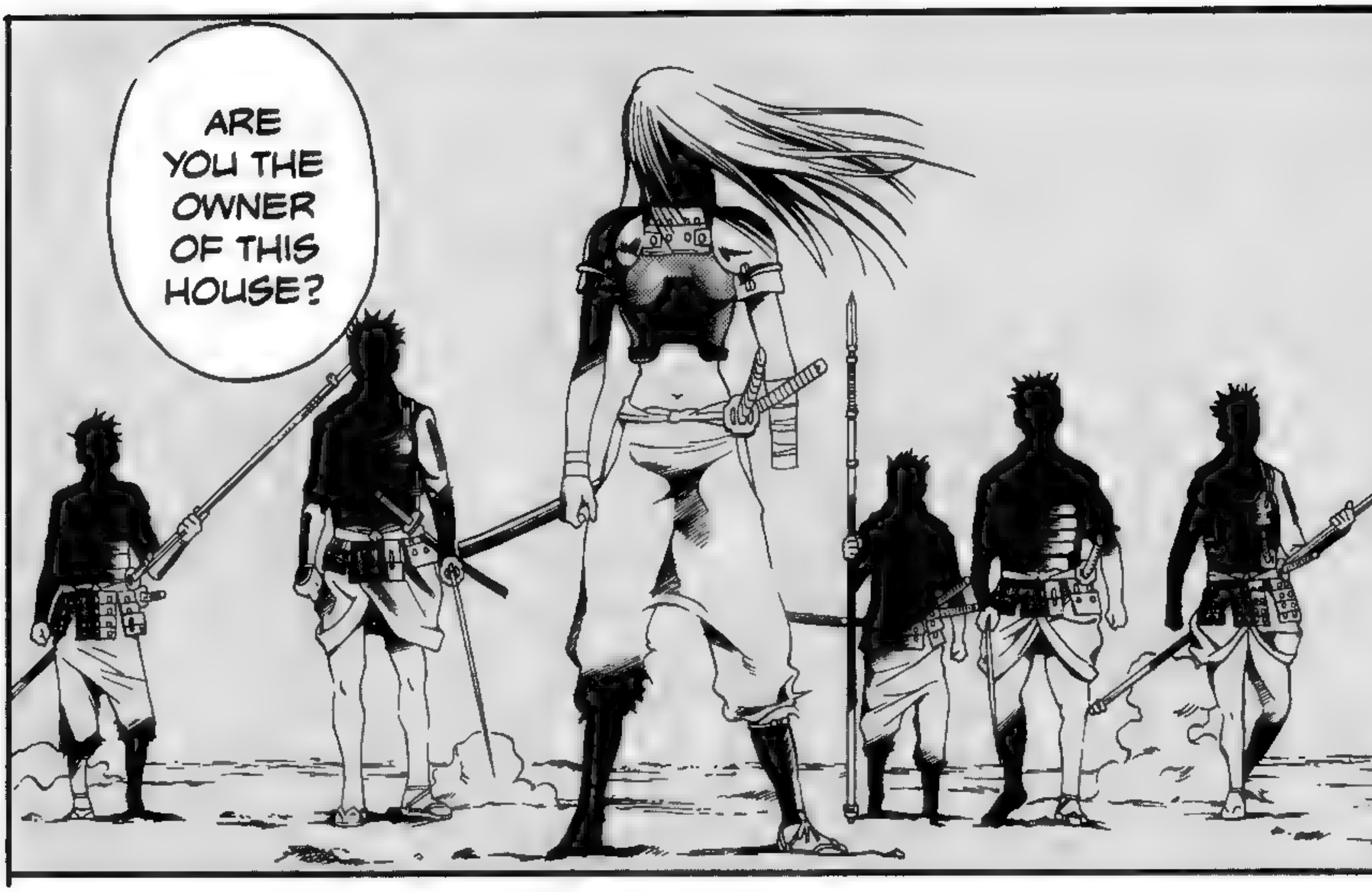
WHY ARE YOU SO KIND, RAIZŌ-DONO?

...I HOPE YOU FIND THE BOY WITH THE HORN SOMEDAY.

WELL...

RUSTLE

ドキ・
TH-
THUMP
ドキ・
TH-
THUMP
ドキ・
TH-
THUMP
ドキ・
TH-
THUMP
I WISH IT HAD BEEN YOU, RAIZŌ-DONO.


ARE YOU THE OWNER OF THIS HOUSE?

SLASH

TMP

Y-YES, BUT THERE'S...

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

...NO ONE ELSE—

SHE CUT MEEEE!

...IS YOU!

AHHHH!

TZINNG

THE ONE WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR...

FLUTTER

I FINALLY FOUND YOU...

...THE ONLY SURVI-VOR...

...?

OOOH!

THE HORN!!

WE GOT HIM!

MINE!?

THERE MUST BE SOME MIS-TAKE!!

...MY LORD WILL BE SO DE-LIGHTED...

IF I BRING BACK YOUR HEAD...

SLASH

MMM...
AHA...
AHH... MY LORD... ♡

!?
KLUNK

WAAAAH
SH-SHE CUT ME!

GASP
GET BACK, ROGUE!

I WON'T LET YOU LAY A FINGER ON MY LORD!

WHOOOSH

AH, SORRY ABOUT THAT!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE HORN?

GLARE

WHAT ABOUT YOU, MY LORD!?

K-KAGARI-DONO!

GO AHEAD AND LAUGH.

WHAT WILL A COWARD LIKE YOU DO BY HER-SELF?

SO IT'S THAT KUNOICHI AGAIN...

WHY DID YOU COME OUT!?

HUH!?

THIS TIME YOU'LL BE THE ONES RUNNING!

HEH HEH

THE CONDITIONS FOR MY SPECIAL TECHNIQUE, "SHINTAIGO," HAVE BEEN FULFILLED!

HEE HEE... I'LL EXPLAIN LATER, MY LORD!

LORD?

KAGARI-DONO, YOU CAN'T TAKE THEM ALL ON BY YOURSELF!

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!

FAVOR?

I JUST HAVE ONE FAVOR TO ASK.

LEAP

...WATCH ME!

!

JUST...

WATCH OOOLLLIT!!

NO, KAGARI-DONO!

LET'S GO!!

THUD

...WATCHES ME...!

QUIVER

WHEN THE MAN I WANT TO KISS...

MY LORD...

SHINTAIGO

SWISH

...IS THAT OF STEEL!

...MY BODY...

...!

...IS THAT OF THE GOD OF WAR!

AND MY POWER...

I-IS THAT KAGARI-DONO !?

TH-THUD

ズ

ズ

ズ

!

WHAA!?

TH-THUD

ズ

ズ

ズ

I-IMPOSSIBLE...

SNAP

バ

CRACK

き

め

き

OOF!

RUMBLE

ARGH!

A YOUNG WOMAN'S LOVE HAS AWAKENED.

MY LORD, SEIGAN-SAMA...

COUGH

THE IGA-NINPO SHINTAIGO...

HORRIFYING...

SPURT

PLEASE, BE CAREFUL...

DRIP

WHOOSH

SHOOMP

THUD

THUD

CRASH

CRASH

AAAARGHH!!

WHAT'D YOU THINK, MY LORD? ♡

THAT'S THE POWER OF THE IGA-NINPO SHINTAIGO!

MY...MY HOUSE IS...

COULDN'T YOU HAVE RESTRAINED YOURSELF A LITTLE?

AND WHO WERE THOSE GUYS?

AND WHY ARE-THEY AFTER ME!?

WHY DO YOU KEEP CALLING ME THAT!?

PAT PAT

SOMEONE LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T GET SO DISCOUR-AGED ABOUT A HOUSE OR TWO, MY LORD!

COMMONERS DON'T KNOW THIS...

...BUT ALL THE PREVIOUS LORDS OF THE KATANA FAMILY HAD ONE, TOO.

PERHAPS YOU ARE HIS ILLE-GITIMATE SON...

HUH?

I KNOW IT MUST BE HARD TO BE-LIEVE...

...BUT THAT HORN ON YOUR FORE-HEAD IS PROOF!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOME-THING THIS IMPORTANT, MOTHER!?

THOSE PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING TO ELIMINATE THE KATANA BLOOD-LINE, HENCHMAN OF OUR SWORN ENEMY, ***KABUKI SEIGAN.***

BOW

...THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY!

HOW-EVER, MY LORD...

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE KATANA FAMILY.

I'M THE FEUDAL LORD...

IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE FAMILY!

RESTORE... THE FAMILY!?

BECAUSE STARTING TODAY, I, KAGARI, SWEAR UPON THE NAME OF THE KATANA FAMILY...

...THAT I WILL BECOME YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT...

!?

FLOP

KAGARI-DONO!?

...I'M THIS GIRL'S "MASTER"?

BUT...

.....

AND SHE WANTS TO RESTORE THE KATANA FAMILY?

HIS MIND WENT BLANK.

I'M SO ASHAMED TO DO THIS IN FRONT OF YOU, MASTER...

...BUT AFTER I USE MY POWER, ALL MY STRENGTH DISAP-PEARS...

THAT'S NOT VERY EFFI-CIENT!!

I GUESS I BETTER FIND A NEW PLACE TO LIVE TO-MORROW...

WELL...

FIRST...

Encounter Rebellion / End

ROOOOOAR

HOW WAS IT? MY IGA-NINPO "*SHINTAIGO*"?

...IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE *KATANA FAMILY.*

FROM NOW ON, I, *KAGARI,* WILL SERVE YOU, MY LORD...

A DREAM?

FWOOSH

AAAHHH!

GOOD MORNING, MY BEAUTIFUL LORD. ♡

AAAHHHHH!

NOW,

I'LL FINISH WHAT I STARTED YESTER-DAY...

QUIVER

...PROPERLY.

KAGARI-DONO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

YOU WERE HAVING A BAD DREAM SO I WAS WAKING YOU UP...

2 Departure Rebellion

WATCH ME!!

IT WASN'T A DREAM AFTER ALL!

IGA-NINPO "SHINTAIGO"!

THAT HORN ON YOUR FOREHEAD IS PROOF!

WHICH MEANS...

MY LORD! WE MUST REVIVE THE KATANA FAMILY!

THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE KATANA FAMILY...

I'LL CUT OFF YOUR HEAD!

...ALL THAT WAS TRUE, TOO!?

SHAKE SHAKE ガタガタ

IT'S NO USE TALKING TO THE IHAI, IT WON'T ANSWER.

WHY DIDN'T YOU EVER TELL ME ABOUT SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING!?

WHY ARE YOU SPARKLING LIKE THAT, MOTHER...

...SO HAP-PILY...

ARGHH

TH-THUD ズズズン

GONG ゴォ

慶光院良清誉大姉

THUD...

WHEN YOU DO, I LOSE ALL MY STRENGTH!

WHAT!?

ISN'T THAT DANGER-OUS?

AHHH, MY LORD!

YOU CAN'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF ME!

BUT WHAT IS THAT EXACTLY?

IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A...

I APPRECI-ATE YOU BUILDING ME A HOUSE IN PLACE OF THE ONE YOU DE-STROYED...

BY THE WAY, KAGARI-DONO...

YES?

I KNEW IT.

MUNCH

MUNCH

IT'S A *CASTLE*, OF COURSE! ♡

KAGARI'S RESTORATION PLAN

ISN'T THAT OBVIOUS?

A CASTLE IS THE SYMBOL OF YOUR FAMILY!

SO FIRST I'LL BUILD ONE ON THIS LAND!

AND I'LL SEND WORD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ABOUT THE REVIVAL OF THE KATANA FAMILY!

THEN ALL YOUR RETAINERS WHO FLED WILL GATHER UNDER THE FAMILY'S FLAG!

OKAY.

SHIINNG

MOTHER IS THANK-ING YOU.

SHE'S HAPPY SHE'LL GET TO BE IN A CASTLE, EVEN IF SHE'S IN AN IHAI.

カターン KLUNK

カターン KLUNK

WHA!? WHAT WAS THAT!?

はっはっは
HA HA HA
NOT BAD...
A CASTLE...
MY LORD?
WHY DO YOU HIDE YOUR HORN?
HMM?
NO, NO!!
I'M GETTING CARRIED AWAY NOW!
HA!
PLEASE LET ME SEE IT. ♡
IT'S A HABIT AFTER GOING THROUGH...
...SO MUCH PAIN BECAUSE OF IT ALL MY LIFE.

SO STRONG!

STRONG?

YOU LOOK SO MUCH MORE DIGNI-FIED!

MUCH BETTER!

OKAY...

OH, MY!

...!!!!

BUT MOST OF ALL...

...IT'S BE-CAUSE THAT HORN IS THE PROOF THAT YOU'RE MY MASTER. ♡

...IS FOR MY THREE COMRADES TO JOIN US. THEY'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

NOW, ALL THAT'S LEFT...

RUSTLE

KAGARI-DONO...

OH, WELL... MOTHER'S HAPPY, TOO...

WHAT'S THAT GIRL DOING?

.....

RUSTLE

PLOD

PLOD

...A CASTLE WAS BUILT *OVER-NIGHT*!!

IN THE BACK OF OUR VIL-LAGE...

IT'S THAT DEMON-CHILD! HE MUST'VE USED A TENGU!

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

GREAT SAMURAI, SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAP-PENED!

OHH!?

...!!

YES!

AND SEND A MESSENGER TO SEIGAN-SAMA!

WE NEED TO HURRY AND ALERT HEAD-QUARTERS!

GYAAÄÄAA

BANG

BANG

BAAÄNG

CLOMP

CLOMPETY

FLUTTER

FLUTTER

TA-DA

STAB

MY LOOOORD! ♡

.....

THAT WAS FAST!!

THIS IS THE FINISHING TOUCH!!

BANG

!!

THAT'S ENOUGH!

.....

SHIING

THAT'S...

...THE KATANA FAMILY EMBLEM!

BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
SWOOSH
.....
KAGARI-DONO!
KA-
SLAM
AN ENEMY! WATCH OUT, MY LORD!
OOOF!

BAN

TOO SLOW.

IF I HAD TRULY BEEN AN ENEMY, THE LORD WOULD BE DEAD BY NOW.

KISARABI!

KI—

.....

YOU CAME AT THE PERFECT TIME!

はは HA HA HA はは..

IT TOOK ME THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS!

SO I SAW.

I'VE JUST FINISHED THE NEW KATANA CASTLE!

SO I SEE.

YOU KNOW I ONLY LIKE TO MAKE A MOVE AFTER CAREFUL OBSERVATION.

WERE YOU HIDING AND WATCHING ME AGAIN?

YOU MADE GOOD USE OF THE REMNANTS OF THE OLD CASTLE AS WELL.

COUGH COUGH !

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN IT...

COUGH

THUD

HE'S AWAKE.

NOW.

DRAG

POP

TH-THUMP

WHAA!?

ANOTHER GIRL IS HERE!?

FROM THE HORN ON YOUR FORE-HEAD...

...I KNOW YOU ARE MY LORD.

I'M A NINJA WHO SERVES THE KATANA FAMILY...

KISARABI.

WELL, I KNOW IT'S SOON...

PLEASE RELAX, MY LORD! SHE'S ONE OF THE COMRADES I TOLD YOU ABOUT!

はわはわ FLUSTERED

THE ENEMY HAS FOUND US ALREADY.

WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN HERE ONE DAY!

WHAT? WHY?

YOU CAN SEE THIS PLACE FROM ANY LOCATION IN THE VILLAGE!

はわはわ FLAIL FLAIL

WHAAAAAT!?

GONG

...BUT WE'LL NEED TO VACATE THIS CASTLE.

...CAN PROVIDE A MORE SUITABLE RESTORATION PLAN FOR YOU.

MY LORD, I, KISARABI...

AN ABANDONED, OVERGROWN SHRINE.

KISARABI'S RESTORATION PLAN

YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT!

!

BUT MORE ENEMIES WOULD GATHER THAN RETAINERS.

KAGARI-DONO'S PLAN DID NOT TAKE YOUR SAFETY INTO CONSIDERATION, MY LORD.

IT'S TRUE THAT FLYING THE EMBLEM OVER A CASTLE WOULD LET THE COUNTRY KNOW OF THE FAMILY'S RESTORATION...

FWOOSH

THIS IS MY PLAN...

RUSTLE

TAKE A LOOK!!

WHOOSH

TA-DA

BANG

WH-WHAT IS THIS!?

EVERY BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN WHO BLOOMS IN THE COUNTRY!

MY PLAN IS THAT YOU MARRY A DAUGHTER OF A NOBLE, RECEIVE HER FATHER'S POWER AND INFLUENCE, AND ATTACK OUR SWORN ENEMY, KABUKI!

KABUKI

NOW, MY LORD!

!

CHOOSE WHICH FLOWER YOU DESIRE!

CAW

CAW

.....

BUT...

...ME, GET MAR-RIED?

...SO QUICKLY...

MARRIAGE!?

UH... ...I CAN'T MAKE SUCH A DECI-SION...

WHY, AT FIFTEEN MOST WAR-RIORS HAVE ALREADY ATTAINED *MANHOOD*!

I'M ONLY *FIFTEEN*!

TO ONE OF THOSE BEAUTIFUL MAIDENS?

KLUNK

KLUNK

SHE'S AC-CEPTED MOTHER ALREADY!

SHE'S A REALIST....

LOOK, YOUR HONORABLE MOTHER IS OVERJOYED!

I WON'T ALLOW IT!

WHOOSH

AHHH!?

I'M GETTING CAR-RIED AWAY AGAIN!!

AH!

GLINT

SO MARRYING A NOBLEMAN'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER IS JUST A FAIRY TALE... YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

NONE OF THE VILLAGE GIRLS HAVE EVER TAKEN YOU SERIOUSLY...

THINK ABOUT IT, RAIZŌ!

FRUSTRATED

IT'S VERY COMPLICATED AND I DON'T GET IT!

WHAT ABOUT THE PRIDE OF THE KATANA FAMILY?

IT'S SHAMEFUL TO HAVE TO RELY ON ANOTHER'S POWER TO REVIVE THE FAMILY!

AND ALSO...

THE ENEMY ALREADY KNOWS THE LOCATION OF THIS CASTLE!

THEN WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

RUMBLE

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? OUR LORD IS OUR LAST HOPE.

IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO HIM, IT WOULD BE UNFORGIVABLE.

WHO CARES? I'LL DE-STROY THEM ALL WITH MY "SHINTAIGO"!

THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING!

YOUR PLAN SOUNDS LIKE IT'S *"USE LORD FOR BAIT TO LURE OUT THE ENEMY"*!

WHAT'S THIS WEIRD ATMO-SPHERE?

AHHH!

I-I KNOW THAT!

WHAT ??

SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN SO ARROGANT?

YOUR POWERS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE USED FOR OUR LORD'S PROTECTION.

IS THIS THE TRUE NATURE OF... KUNOICHI!?

ゴゴゴ RUMBLE RUMBLE

WHAT'S THIS HOSTILITY BETWEEN COMRADES?

COULD IT JUST BE FRIENDLY FIRE?

KLINK

Y-YOU'RE AN IDIOT, KISARABI...

E-EXCUSE ME...

I-I NEED TO STOP THEM...

BULLY!

COLD-BLOODED WOMAN!!

WAAAAAH

YOU ALWAYS USE THE MEANEST WORDS POSSIBLE!

WAIT...

KAGARI-DONO!

TRUE SHINOBI ENDURE ANY HARDSHIP — EVEN IF IN VAIN — FOR THEIR LORDS!

...THEY HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO *SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES!*

AND IF THE SITUATION CALLS FOR IT...

BUT THAT'S...

LET HER GO!!

COLD-BLOODED WOMAN?

BULLY?

MUTTER

MUTTER

SHE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT... SHE NEVER KNOWS HER PLACE.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW THE HARDSHIPS I'VE GONE THROUGH.

IT'S REALLY BOTHERING HER...

IT DID TAKE HER THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS...

SHE'S PROBABLY UPSET YOU SAID *"VACATE THE CASTLE"*!

YES, THAT'S IT!

MY LORD!

PLEASE FORGIVE KISARABI!

BAN

BUT I THINK...

!

...I'D FEEL TERRIBLE TO DEMAND THAT MUCH...

...TOO MUCH FOR HER!

I FORGIVE YOU! I FORGIVE YOU, OKAY?

S-STOP, KISARABI-SAN! I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

THEN, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I'LL BE ***BLUNT.***

疾如風徐如林 掠如火不動如山

YOU SHOULDN'T CONCERN YOURSELF WITH YOUR SERVANTS' EMOTIONS.

WE'RE LIKE MOUNTAINS THAT PROTECT AND WATCH OVER YOU, MY LORD!

IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE "*IMMOVABLE LIKE MOUNTAINS*"!

BUT DOESN'T THAT MEAN "JUST IGNORE ANY MISTAKES YOUR SUBORDINATES MAKE"?

OKAY...

THAT'S HOW I'D LIKE YOU TO THINK OF US, MY LORD!

HMM...

BUT IT WOULD BE HARD FOR YOU TO GO, RIGHT?

...YOU NEEDN'T GO YOURSELF, MY LORD.

THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

...AND IT'LL BE DANGEROUS IF THE ENEMIES FIND HER.

KAGARI-DONO'S PROBABLY RETURNED TO THE CASTLE...

SO I SHOULD GO SORT THINGS OUT.

I'M THE REASON YOU HAD A FIGHT.

THAT IDIOT KISARABI...

MY LORD?

I CAME TO GET YOU AND FELL IN...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE TRAP I LAID FOR THE ENEMIES?

!

GYAAAAH!

PANT

PANT

PANT

MY LORD! ♡

GEH!

IT'S DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO BE HERE IF THE ENEMIES KNOW ABOUT IT.

NO, THAT'S NOT IT!

HMPH! YOU ONLY CAME TO MAKE EXCUSES FOR KISARABI!

BUT...

...CAN'T YOU ONLY DO THAT WHEN I'M WITH YOU?

WHO CARES ABOUT THEM!?

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM WITH MY "SHINTAIGO"!

AH

THAT'S WHY IT'S DANGEROUS!

BUT THAT ALSO WOULD EXPOSE YOU TO THE DANGERS OF THE BATTLEFIELD, MY LORD...

IT'S TRUE THAT I NEED TO BE WATCHED BY "THE MAN I WANT TO KISS"—YOU, MY LORD—IN ORDER TO USE "SHINTAIGO."

BUT I...

SMACK

SMASH

GUNSHOTS!

BANG

BANG

!

THE ENEMY!?

I CAN DO IT!

THERE LOOK TO BE ABOUT A HUNDRED MOUNTED ENEMIES...

TORCHES!

THEY'RE ALREADY THIS CLOSE...

PANT

PANT

WATCH M-

MY LORD!

K- KAGARI- DONO...

WHAT... IS THIS...?

SQUEEZE

OW, OW! TOO TIGHT!

I FAILED
I FAILED
I FAILED
I FAILED!!!

I'LL STOP THE BLEEDING RIGHT AWAY!

MY... LORD...

KISARABI!

GRAB

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT NEEDS TO STOP!

I'M SORRY...

THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU!

SQUEEZE

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

AND THEN WHAT? THE ENEMY IS RIGHT THERE.

OUR LORD IS INJURED— THEY'LL CATCH UP TO US SOONER OR LATER.

THEN WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

WE'LL USE THE CASTLE TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

.....

BULLY!

I WON'T LET YOU SAY NO.

YES!

I'M SURE THEY'RE HIDING! SEARCH FOR THEM!

AND...

NO ONE'S INSIDE!

CRACK

RUMBLE

GOD OF SHINOBI, I BEG YOU...

GIVE MY FINGERS THE STRENGTH TO CRUSH EVIL!

FWOOSH

.....?

FLAP FLAP

TAKE DOWN THAT EYESORE OF A BANNER AND BRING IT TO ME!

!

GRAB

TMP

GLINT

SHIVER

RASENGAN!

BWOOM

NO ONE ASKED YOU TO BUILD THAT ONE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE SEEN MY LORD'S PALACE DESTROYED TWICE...

FIDGET

ROOOOAR

AHH, THE CASTLE'S BURNING...

AHH!

ARRGH!

YOU BRUTE!

THEY'RE FIGHTING AGAIN!

COME ON, YOU TWO!

WHO CAUSED THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE?

WHY WERE YOU HIDING THESE THINGS ABOUT?

AND BY THE LOOKS OF THAT FIRE, YOU—

HA HA

AND IT'S ALSO THANKS TO KISARABI'S GREAT PLAN!

HA HA HA

IF IT WASN'T FOR KAGARI-DONO, WE WOULDN'T HAVE FINISHED THEM ALL OFF!

...WORKED TOGETHER!

SO IN OTHER WORDS, YOU TWO...

SEE?

HEH HEH...

I JUST WANTED TO SAY IT, I'M SORRY!

KILL

CRAZED

THANK YOU SO MUCH, MY LORD!

AH...

...I SEE...

KAGARI IS SO MOVED! ♡

I'VE NEVER BEEN COMPLIMENTED BEFORE!

...WELL...

TRY NOT TO DO ANYTHING RASH IN THE FUTURE.

OR I'LL BE WORRIED.

WE DON'T DESERVE SUCH KIND WORDS, MY LORD.

YOU SHOULD BE SCOLDING US RIGHT NOW!

I COULDN'T DO THAT!

YOU ARE IRREPLACE-ABLE AND WE LET YOU GET IN-JURED!

MY LORD...

SCORNED

SHE GOT MAD AT ME!

WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE!

YOU CALL THAT DISCI-PLINE!?

WELL, LET'S GO.

4 4 4...

CHIRP CHIRP

THE NEXT MORN-ING...

IT WOULD HAVE MADE MORE SENSE TO SET OFF AT NIGHT, BUT I DECIDED TO THINK MORE POSITIVELY.

AFTER ALL, I'M GOING ON A JOURNEY WITH TWO BEAUTIFUL WOMEN!

WE FINALLY SET OFF.

YES!

SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

AAAGHHH!

KLUNK

WE'RE LOOK-ING FOR PRIN-CESSES!

BE CAREFUL!

WHAA!?

I KNOW, MOTHER!

PRINCESSES ...HUH...

HUH?

YOU'LL BE FINE, MY LORD!

ARE YOU SURE MY BEING ABLE TO MEET A PRINCESS ISN'T SOME KIND OF NINJA TRICK?

THIS WON'T WORK!!

BECAUSE YOU'RE SO KIND!

HMM?

THERE ISN'T SUCH A CONVENIENT TECHNIQUE.

Departure Rebellion / End

IT MADE MORE SENSE TO DEPART AT NIGHT, BUT...

THIS IS THE FIRST *JOURNEY* I'VE EVER BEEN ON!!

MY LORD! ♡

HURRY!

EXCITED

EXCITED

AND I'M TRAVELING WITH TWO BEAUTIFUL WOMEN!

CAW CAW CAW

HURRRYY!

MY LOOOORD! ♡

WE SLOWED OUR PACE EVEN THOUGH WE SAID WE'D GO TWENTY RI A DAY...

TRAVELING WITH KUNOICHI IS HARSH...

TWENTY RI... ...80 KILO-METERS* ...

*ABOUT 50 MILES

MY LORD! GET AHOLD OF YOUR-SELF!

HE COL-LAPSED ON THE FIRST DAY.

3

Bedding Room Rebellion

THIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO WAIT FOR OUR OTHER TWO COMRADES.

F- FINALLY...

WELL, SHALL WE STAY HERE TONIGHT?

THAT'S A GOOD POINT.

I WONDER WHERE THEY'RE DAWDLING, ANYWAY...

ARE THE OTHER TWO KUNOICHI, TOO?

BY THE WAY...

IF THEY DON'T REACH US TODAY OR TOMORROW, OUR PURSUERS WILL CATCH UP TO US...

う～ん HMMMM.. む...

WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD CALL THEM THAT...

?

SO THAT'S THE INFAMOUS SURVIVOR?

OOH...

HE LOOKS SO NAIVE.

IF THAT'S HIM, IT'LL BE A SURE VICTORY.

...DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THAT!

I...

I SAID, WILL ALL OF YOU BE IN ONE ROOM?

HUH?

IS ONE ROOM FINE?

...THAT WOULD BE THE BEST SITUATION TO PROTECT OUR LORD...

IT'S TRUE...

I WANT US ALL TO ROOM TOGETHER!

TIMID

ME SHARING A ROOM WITH TWO WOMEN!?

THEN, ONE RO-

BEWARE OF WOMEN!!!

KLUNK

THIS IS MY FIRST JOURNEY EVER, AND NOW THIS!?

ALL WOMEN SHOULD BE FORBIDDEN UNTIL I MARRY A DAIMYO'S DAUGHTER!

I FORGOT ALL ABOUT YOU, MOTHER.

OW...

HEH HEH.

STRUM

MAY I COME IN?

KLUNK

FOR THE SAKE OF THE KATANA FAMILY!

YES...

EXCUSE ME.

EXCUSE ME...

...ALL OUR ROOMS ARE PACKED RIGHT NOW...

WOULD YOU MIND IF THIS PERSON STAYED WITH YOU?

YES?

I'M WORRIED.

I'M GOING TO SHOW THIS TO MASTER. ♡

ABOUT MASTER, OF COURSE!

HM? ABOUT WHAT?

PULL ぎゅむ ぎゅむ PULL

IF ONLY HE WERE IN AN ADJACENT ROOM...

WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT IN TIME IF THERE'S AN EMERGENCY!

PULL PULL PULL

YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, KISARABI!

NO ENEMIES WILL FOLLOW US HERE.

AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A SHINOBI?

OKAY...

YOU WERE HERE FIRST, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO BE SHY.

WHAT'S WRONG, YOUNG MAN?

AMATEUR TRAVELER

UHH, NOTHING...

WHAT?

SHALL WE GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER?

IT'LL HELP US GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

BGLGH! UGH!

OH, DON'T BE SILLY!

TA-DA

NO, I DON'T DRINK—

MY NAME IS HIMEAMI. I'M A TRAVELING PER-FORMER.

WH-WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?

I TRAVEL ALL OVER JAPAN WITH MY SHAMISEN.

LISTEN-ING TO THIS SOUND...

IT MAKES ME FEEL SLEEPY FOR SOME REASON.

SHUDDER

HUH...?

STRUM

MUGEN...

BUT YOU'RE THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE KATANA FAMILY, AREN'T YOU?

YOU'RE CON-CEALING YOUR HORN WELL...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER.

I ALREADY KNOW. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THE TWO OTHERS TO LEAVE.

!?

BECAUSE YOU'RE ALREADY UNDER MY SPELL.

YOUR BODY WOULDN'T LET YOU ANSWER IF YOU TRIED.

.....

STRUM

YOU'RE MY PRISONER.

WHERE IS HE!?

MY LORD! ♡

SLIDE

GOT LOST

PANT PANT

SILENCE

!!

KYAAAA!

PULL

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO MY LORD?

THAT SCREAM IS KAGARI'S!

!!.....

K-KISARAB!!!!!

TIGHTEN

WHOOSH

TIGHTEN

TH-THIS IS—!

THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
TH-THUD
SNAP
THUD
AHH!
HUH!?
THUD
THUD
?
OWWW...
WHAT THE!?
THUD
SNAP
SLAM
BLIND-FOLD?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MY LORD?

BUT NOT TO WORRY.

I CHASED HIM OFF.

WHAAA?

THAT WAS CLOSE... YOU ALMOST FELL INTO THAT VILLAIN'S HANDS.

VILLAIN?

OH, THAT MAN PUT ME TO SLEEP...

THAT MEANS YOU'RE...

I'M ONE OF THE KATANA SHINOBI...

HIMEMARU.

PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR BEING SO LATE. ♡

A...

ANOTHER ONE!

!!?

OHH...

I STRUGGLED WITH THAT VILLAIN WHILE I WAS TRYING TO SAVE YOU...

BLOOD!?

ARE YOU HURT, HIMEMARU-DONO!?

HIMEMARU-DONO?

TEAR

THAT'S TERRIBLE! WE NEED TO DRESS IT!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO MASTER!

WE NEED TO SAVE HIM AT ONCE!

INTENSE

SHIVER

WHAT IF MASTER HAS FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF SOMEONE WHO'S *NOT* AN ENEMY?

NOOOOO!

HE'LL BE IN TROUBLE IN A *DIF-FERENT* WAY.

THUD

COME!

THUD

THUD

KYAAA!?

THUD

THUD

TRIP

FWOOSH

SNAP

FWOOSH

KISARABI! AT THIS RATE WE'LL NEVER GET THERE!

WHO-EVER THIS IS... IS VERY PRE-PARED!!

A TRAP!?

THAT'S MY KISARABI!

OOOH!

THEY'RE TRYING TO SLOW US DOWN, BUT WE CAN'T GIVE IN.

IF WE AVOID THESE AND WALK CAREFULLY, WE'LL REACH MASTER!

NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED!!

KAGARI, YOU IDIOT!

THIS WENT ON FOR SOME TIME...

KYAAA!

TRIP

MY LORD... HIMEMARU IS SO HAPPY...

I SEARCHED FOR YOU ALL OVER.... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU TURNED OUT TO BE SUCH A KIND PERSON!

BEDDING ROOM

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

GLANCE

チラ

H-HIMEMARU-DONO?

I'LL GO GET THE-

THEY WERE BOTH REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT YOU!

KAGARI-DONO, KISARABI-SAN!

OH! TH-THAT'S RIGHT!

BOING

GRAB

IF YOU CALL THEM HERE, ALL MY WORK WILL BE FOR NAUGHT!

HUH!?

THUD

I CAN'T ALLOW THAT!

MMPH!?

DO YOU PLAN ON STAYING WITH THAT MONSTER AND THAT PRUDE FOREVER?

JOSTLE

MY LORD... ♡

AHH

I SEE...

I WOULD NEVER PUT YOU THROUGH SUCH HARDSHIPS, MY LORD. ♡

NO MATTER HOW MANY LIVES YOU HAVE, IT WON'T BE ENOUGH UNDER *THEIR* PLANS FOR REVIVING THE KATANA FAMILY.

WATCH MEEEE!

IT'S JUST TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU, MY LORD...

HIMEMARU'S RESTORATION PLAN

AND WITH MY SUPERIOR TRAINING AS A KUNOICHI OF IGA...

I WILL EVEN OFFER MY OWN BODY FOR YOUR SAKE, MY LORD!

THEY SHALL RUSH TO GATHER UNDER THE KATANA BANNER!

...I WILL CHARM THE DAIMYO'S FOLLOWERS TO BE OUR SERVANTS!

GLANCE

AND OF COURSE, NO MATTER HOW MANY MEN I GIVE MYSELF TO...

...MY HEART WILL REMAIN YOURS, MY LORD. ♡

HUH?

OF COURSE IT IS, FOR YOUR PROTEC-TION.

I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND THAT PLAN...

...IT SOUNDS LIKE IT WOULD BE AN AWFUL LOT OF TROUBLE...

IF YOU DOUBT THE POWER OF MY SKILLS, MY LORD...

UHH, NO, I—

HUH!?

THUD

WHY NOT TEST THEM OUT YOUR-SELF? ♡

REALIZATION

M-

MOTHER !?

MY LORD?

WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?

?

...IS STRANGE ABOUT THIS GIRL!

SOMETHING...

SILENCE

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... MOTHER ISN'T REACTING!?

WAIT RIGHT THERE!

AAAH!?

WHA!?

I'M SURE SHE'S WORRIED.

I'M GOING TO CALL KAGARI-DONO AFTER ALL...

I CAN'T LET MY CHANCE TO MARRY INTO MONEY GET AWAY!

I STUDIED TO BECOME A KUNOICHI FOR THIS DAY...

IF SHE COMES, MY PLAN'S RUINED.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY IGA-STYLE NINPO, "MASOCHISTIC BONDAGE"!?

FWOOSH

ONCE YOU GET A TASTE FOR IT, YOU START TO CRAVE IT!!

WHAAA!?

THAT'S ENOUGH !!!

CRASH

HUH?

OW, OW, LET ME OUT!

INTO WHAT!?

I FAILED...

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE INTO THIS, MY LORD...

I KNEW IT WAS YOU, HIMEMARU!

YOU GOT MASTER ALONE AND TRIED TO DECEIVE HIM!

MY LORD!

WE FINALLY MADE IT HERE—AT A SNAIL'S PACE!

WELL, WE GOT CAUGHT IN EVERY SINGLE TRAP YOU LAID...

...BE-CAUSE OF HER...

MMPH

SMACK

YOU'RE PRETTY LATE.

YOU'RE RIGHT, KAGARI. MASTER AND I HAVE ALREADY BECOME INTIMATE...

MMPHF!

WE HAVE NOT!

MY LORD! YOU'RE TIED UP...

DON'T TELL ME HIME-MARU'S ALREADY ...?

IF SO, MASTER WOULD BE...

SLAP

OF COURSE NOT!

FFSSSHHHH

KAGARI!

MMPH!

YOU'RE TOO LATE.

RIGHT? ♡

WELL THEN. ♡

STRUM

FSSH

I'LL TAKE HIM NOW.

FWOOM

ZOOM

ZOOM

STOP THIS NON-SENSE!

SHOOM

PULL

PULL

FSSHHU

KAGARI!

RELAX! I'LL RETURN HIM AFTER I'VE FINISHED WITH HIM!

BANG

PULL

THUD

I WANTED TO AVOID THIS, BUT...

...I HAVE NO CHOICE NOW.

IF MASTER'S HEART WAVERS TO SOMEONE ELSE, KAGARI BECOMES IMMOBILIZED!

THE CONDITIONS FOR "SHINTAIGO" HAVE TURNED ON US!

FFSSHUU

I WON'T LET YOU!

KLING

BANG

KISARABI, YOU...

UGH...

KYAAA!

THUD

THUD

M-MY LORD. ♡

GASP

PTUI

I'M SO RELIEVED MY LORD ISN'T LIKE *THAT*!

NOW... ♡

...IS BROKEN.

THE SPELL...

SHINTAIGO!!!

KYAAAA!?

SPIN

WHOMP

NOW, MY LORD...

I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND, BUT HIMEMARU IS...

SHALL I CUT HIM, MY LORD?

CHING

TH-THAT'S TOO MUCH!!

THE PUNISH-MENT SHALL BE *DEATH*!!

THAT'S RIGHT! HE DOESN'T KNOW HIS PLACE AND TRIED TO DECEIVE YOU, MY LORD!

A *MAN*, HUH...

AAAAH!?

SQUEEZE

DID HE LOOK LIKE THIS?

RUSTLE

AFTER ALL, HE DID SAVE ME FROM A VILLAIN EARLIER...

VILLAIN?

HEH HEH...OH WELL, I GUESS I'M BUSTED.

SO IT WAS HIM ALL ALONG?

WHYYYY!?

IT WAS ALL AN *ACT* OF MY DOING...

...IN ORDER TO MAKE MASTER MY PRISONER!

DON'T BE FOOLED BY ANYTHING HE SAYS!

ALL HE CARES ABOUT IS *MARRYING INTO MONEY*!

HE SAYS THINGS LIKE "IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE TO BE A MALE SHINOBI IN THIS DAY AND AGE, SO I'LL BE A KUNOICHI"!

BACK HOME HE'S KNOWN FOR BEING LAZY.

GRRRR

HA HA HA...

THE REASON I BECAME A KUNOICHI...

...IS BECAUSE I WAS BORN WITH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FACE IN THE VILLAGE.

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY RIGHT...

THE PLAN I MENTIONED BEFORE...

...I'LL PUT IT INTO ACTION ANY TIME YOU WANT, MY LORD. ♡

AND THE REASON I'VE HAD MY EYE ON MASTER...

...IS BECAUSE I'VE TRULY FALLEN FOR HIM.

TH-THUMP

DON'T CONFUSE MASTER, YOU DEMON!

SMACK

N-NO, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK...

FFSSHUUU

NOOO!!

WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING SO!?

MY LORD...!?

LOOKS LIKE THERE STILL MIGHT BE SOME HOPE LEFT YET...

HEH, WELL, THEN...

RUSTLE

LET'S BE ON OUR WAY, MY LORD! ♡

WELL...

CHIRP チチチ CHIRP

HEY!!

DIDN'T YOU REALIZE THAT LAST NIGHT?

ALSO...

IT'S NOT A BAD IDEA HAVING A MAN AROUND TO PROTECT MASTER...

HOW COLD! WE'RE ALL FRIENDS HERE. ♡

WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO INNOCENT?

WHA!?

UGH... WHAT IS HE THINKING ABOUT?

HEH HEH

AND IN THE END, I'LL BECOME HIS LEGAL WIFE...

...I'LL HAVE THEM WORK FOR ME INSTEAD.

I'LL NEVER WORK HARD FOR ANYONE...

FSSSHUUU

GRRRR

NO MATTER WHAT, HE'S OUR ALLY!

I HAVE TO ACCEPT HIM!

NOW, RAIZŌ! IT'S NOT GOOD TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST OTHERS JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE DIFFERENT!

NOOO! MY LOORD!

WE CAN ALL HEAR YOU, HIMEMARU.

I'LL MAKE YOU FALL FOR ME, MY LORD!

EEEE, NO, I CAN'T!

Bedding Room Rebellion / End

I NEVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED I WAS THE ILLEGITIMATE SON OF THE LATE FEUDAL LORD!

I, KATANA RAIZÔ, WAS OSTRACIZED IN MY VILLAGE BECAUSE I HAVE A HORN GROWING FROM MY FOREHEAD.

THE DESTRUCTION OF A FAMILY LED TO THE BEGINNING OF MY JOURNEY.

I HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING THIS FAR-FETCHED STORY...

THEY'RE PLOTTING FOR THE REVIVAL OF MY FAMILY.

THREE KUNOICHI KNEW THIS, AND CAME TO GET ME. (ONE'S A MAN, THOUGH.)

4 Nursing Rebellion

NO...

I CAN FEED MYSELF...

HERE, MY LORD. ♡

OPEN UP!

THAT DOESN'T SOLVE ANYTHING.

NO...IT'S FINE, REALLY.

SHALL I CHANGE INTO WOMEN'S CLOTHES?

CAN YOU NOT GET INTO IT WHEN I WEAR THESE CLOTHES?

WHY? YOU'RE NO FUN.

I HAVE A FEELING HE'S GOT SOMETHING UP HIS SLEEVE...

THAT HIME-MARU... ALWAYS SHOWING OFF AND FLIRTING...

HEY, HEY!

HE'LL SLIP UP SOONER OR LATER...

.....

MUNCH MUNCH

NO, IT'S SERIOUSLY FINE!!

MAYBE YOU'LL GET INTO IT IF YOU JUST LISTEN TO MY VOICE.

OKAY, THEN CLOSE YOUR EYES! ♡

THAT WAS STRAIGHT-FORWARD!

CLATTER

HII

PFFFTT

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING, BASTARD?

GET AWAY FROM HIM!

YOU CAN SEE MASTER DOESN'T LIKE IT!

EVER SINCE YOU JOINED UP WITH US YOU'VE BEEN ALL OVER HIM!

MY OB-JECTIVE IS TO MARRY INTO MONEY— THE KATANA FAMILY!

SO I NEED TO MAKE MASTER FALL FOR ME...

YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHEN MASTER IS EM-BARRASSED...

...AND WHEN HE DOESN'T LIKE IT?

WHAT?

SEE, THIS IS WHY YOU'RE A CHILD.

AND SAY AAHH...

...MY LORD! ♡

SNAP

CLATTER

OPEN WIDE!

FORGET ABOUT THOSE *CHILDREN*, MY LORD.

M-MISTER!?

INN

THUD

SHINTAIGOOOO!!

AGGH...

NOT AGAIN!!

GO AWAY, HIMEMARU!

CRASH

IS TRAVELING WITH OTHERS ALWAYS THIS ROUGH?

AT LEAST WHEN YOU'RE ALONE YOU ONLY HAVE TO THINK ABOUT YOURSELF...

.....

I NEED TO BREAK IT UP...

TRYING TO GO INTO MASTER'S ROOM JUST AFTER YOU'VE BATHED!

WHAT ABOUT YOU? PRETENDING YOU'RE ON NIGHT WATCH AND THEN SNEAKING A PEEK.

A WOMAN'S JEALOUSY IS A SCARY THING!

AND JUST AFTER A BATH, TOO!

IT'S WRONG! IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE UP TO SOMETHING!

!!

KISARABI-SAN.

ARE YOU THERE?

IT'S NOISY IN HERE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

HUH?

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D NOTICE...

I FAILED.

THUD

I'M SORRY TO INTRUDE.

CAN'T YOU DO SOME-THING ABOUT THOSE TWO?

ACTUALLY, I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.

HMM...

TINGLE

AT THIS RATE, I'LL GO CRAZY!

?

SHE'S NO HELP...

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER WAY...

...AND THEN THEY CAN FIGHT IT OUT UNTIL THEY SETTLE IT!

WE SHOULD GET TO THE BOTTOM OF WHY THEY DON'T GET ALONG...

HMM?

GLINT

MOTHER?

TEA

OHH, A TEA CEREMONY!

THAT MIGHT WORK!

WHOOSH...

AND SO,

WE HAVE GATHERED HERE TODAY FOR YOU TWO!

...AND OUR HEARTS WILL BECOME ONE! HOPEFULLY...

TCH

HMPH

WE'LL SHARE A CUP OF TEA TO CALM OUR SOULS...

COMFY

LIKE THAT? SCARY...

MOTHER TAUGHT ME THE BASICS.

YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT TEA, MY LORD.

HERE YOU GO.

シャシャシャ WHISK

ポポポポ BUBBLE BUBBLE

HOWEVER, WE KUNOICHI DON'T KNOW PROPER TEA CEREMONY ETIQUETTE.

ETIQUETTE...

Y-YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

...AND THEN TAKE A SIP.

SIP

FIRST APPRECIATE THE ARTISTRY OF THE CUP...

WELL, USUALLY THE GUESTS DRINK FIRST...

...BUT SINCE THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME I'LL DEMONSTRATE.

...THEN PASS TO THE NEXT PERSON.

WIPE THE RIM WITH A CLOTH AND TURN IT...

HE GUESSED IT...

GASP

HUH!?

STARE

JUST LIKE THAT.

...LIPS TOUCHED...

A TEA CUP THAT MASTER'S...

TH-THUMP

むらむら——っ

TURNED ON

HUH!?

ばた FLAIL

ばた FLAIL

ぐるるる

ME FIRST, MY LORD!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I'M FIRST!

CRACK

ぐちゃ

ぐちゃ

UGH...

SLAP

SMACK

YOU...

MASTER MADE THAT TEA FOR US!!

YOU RUDE PIG, KAGARI!

DOOOM

DOOOM

I WANTED TO DRINK IT, TOO!

I'M THE VICTIM HERE!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT IN MY WAY!

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

BRING IT ON!

DO YOU WANT TO FIGHT!?

AFTER I FINISH YOU OFF MASTER WILL HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

LET'S GO!

I SHOULD HAVE NEVER DONE THIS!

THE SITUATION'S EVEN WORSE NOW!!

AAAAAHHH!

MY LORD !?

PULL YOUR-SELF TO-GETHER!

MY LORD !?

FSSHUUU

BOOM!

SIGH...

WELL...

MAKE SURE HE GETS PLENTY OF REST AND NOURISHING FOOD.

IT'S EXHAUSTION.

EXHAUSTION, HUH?

HE'S PROBABLY JUST TIRED FROM TRAVELING.

CALM DOWN, IDIOT. IT'S JUST MENTAL FATIGUE.

SO I GUESS HE DOESN'T REALIZE HE'S PART OF THE CAUSE...

WHAT AN IDIOT...

KISARABI... WHAT IS *EXHAUS-TION*!?

WAAAH

WHAT ABOUT MASTER'S LIFE? IS IT IN DANGER!?

RUSTLE RUSTLE

THUD

LOOK AFTER HIM? LIKE HOW?

?

NURSE HIM BACK TO HEALTH!

I CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS WEAK HEART WHILE HE'S SICK!

EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST EXHAUSTION, IT'S STILL SERIOUS...

WE NEED TO LOOK AFTER HIM...

IT'S THE BEST REMEDY FOR HIGH FEVERS. ♡

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? ♡ I'M GOING TO KEEP HIM WARM WITH MY BODY HEAT. ♡

HIMEMARU!?

ぬぎ" STRIP

ぬぎ" STRIP

YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT... IT COULD WORK.

WELL THEN, I WILL, TOO...

WHY ARE YOU GETTING NAKED!?

KNOCK IT OFF, YOU TWO!!

AAHHH!

KISARABI!?

FWOSH-

WHERE ARE YOU GOING LOOKING LIKE THAT!?

I'LL BE BACK LATER.

IF HE GETS ANY WORSE, I'LL HOLD YOU RESPON-SIBLE!

MASTER IS NOT YOUR TOY!

WILL YOU LISTEN TO YOUR-SELVES!?

BODY HEAT? HA!

UUGHH...

P-PLEASE... STOP... FIGHTING...

DEPRESSED

I GUESS IT'S NOT GOOD, AFTER ALL...

SILENCE

シーン

……

WHERE?

I'M GOING, TOO.

I'M GOING DEER HUNTING!

MEAT IS THE BEST NOURISHMENT.

I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF MASTER IN MY OWN WAY. ♡

S-E-C-R-E-T. ♡

WHY DON'T YOU HELP MASTER IN YOUR OWN WAY!

WHY WOULD I TELL YOU, WHEN WE'RE FIGHTING?

FINE, THEN! YOU'RE SO STINGY!

MY...OWN WAY?

THIS PLACE SHOULD DO.

I'M NEAR THEIR FEEDING GROUNDS...

FWWOOO

THEY'RE VIGILANT EVEN AT THEIR OWN FEEDING GROUNDS.

DEER ARE TIMID CREATURES.

SO I NEED TO HIDE MYSELF AND COVER UP MY SCENT.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

THEREFORE HUNTERS MUST WAIT UNTIL THEY LET THEIR GUARD DOWN BEFORE APPROACHING THEM.

...I NEED TO BE ONE WITH NATURE...

...AND JUST KEEP WAITING!

AND UNTIL MY CHANCE COMES...

SILENCE

.....

CRUNCH
CRUNCH
IT'S MY SPECIALTY!
IT MIGHT BE HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT I'M AN EXPERT AT MIXING MEDICINES!
TING
TING
HEHEHE. ♡
BUT JUST REGULAR FEVER-REDUCING MEDICINE IS BORING...
HMMM...
AND SOMETHING TO GIVE HIM ENERGY! ♡
AHAHAHAHA
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
DEER ANTLERS OR SOMETHING.
THAT'S RIGHT! I SHOULD ADD A TONIC!
ALL RIGHT! FEVER MEDICINE IS FINISHED!
WHAT CAN I DO?
.....

I'M DREAMING...

GASP

KAGARI-DONO?

YOU WERE HAVING A NIGHT-MARE...

NNNM...

MY LORD!

EVERYONE...

RUSTLE...

MY LORD!

NOW, MY LORD, LIE DOWN ON YOUR STOMACH! ♡

WHY AM I GETTING A MASSAGE WHEN I'M SICK!?

OH! THIS IS...

W-WHAT ARE YOU WEAR-ING!?

...BECAUSE I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A *MASSAGE*!

K-KAGARI-DONO, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?

BY STIMULATING VARIOUS ACUPUNCTURE POINTS ON THE BODY, I CAN CHANGE YOUR CIRCULATION...

...AND RELEASE THE NEGATIVE ENERGY FROM THE ORIGIN OF YOUR ILLNESS. ♡

I'M A MASTER OF SHINTAIGO, A QI GONG TECHNIQUE!

PLOP

AH!

H-HEY, WAIT!

EXCUSE ME, MY LORD. ♡

২০০ GRAB

২৯৭ GRAB

AAHHH... ♡

OOHH...

HOW'S THE PRES-SURE, MY LORD?

DOES IT HURT?

MM... NO, IT...

...FEELS REAAALLY GOOD. ♡

O-OHHH...

KAGARI-DONO...

YES, RIGHT THERE... SO GOOOOD. ♡

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP

MM... LOWER

TH-THUMP

KAGARI-DONO...

GLANCE

CAN YOU GO A LITTLE LOWER?

QUIVER

UH-OH...

THUD

SHINTAIGO!!!

GYAAAAHHHH!

GUESS THEY (DEER) WON'T COME OUT...

あ あ
AAAAHHHHHH!

WHAT'S GOING ON!?

SLAM

I-I LET MYSELF GET TOO EXCITED AND LET GO WHEN MY LORD LOOKED AT ME...

I HAVE NO EXCUSE...

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HELPING MASTER GET BETTER, NOT HURTING HIM MORE!

WHAT'S WITH THOSE CLOTHES !?

NOW, MY LORD, ♡

HAVE SOME OF THIS MEDICINE. ♡

FSSHH

ONE DOWN... ♡

H-HMM...

GULP

IF YOU TAKE THIS MEDICINE, IT WILL RELEASE LARGE AMOUNTS OF SWEAT AND TOXINS FROM YOUR BODY AND YOUR FEVER WILL GO DOWN! ♡

MEDICINE? DON'T TELL ME YOU MADE IT YOURSELF!?

I WONDER IF IT'S WORKING?

OHH... I FEEL WARM...

DON'T WORRY! I'M A MEDICINE EXPERT! (ESPECIALLY POISONS)

HO, HO ♡

FSSSPPPTTT

M-MY LORD!?

♡

SELF-DESTRUCT

OH NO... I PUT IN TOO MUCH TONIC!

MY LORD...

STARE

THERE'S ONE...

BUT I'M FINE BY MYSELF!

THANKS, YOU TWO...

I'LL FEEL BETTER IF I JUST LIE HERE BY MYSELF...

ANYTHING MORE AND MY *LIFE* WILL BE IN DANGER...

BY YOURSELF!?

WE NEED TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE!

LIFE!

CRUMBLE

CRUMBLE

I LIKE BEING ALONE AT TIMES LIKE THIS...

SIGH...

PHEW

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M LONG-ING FOR THE TIMES WHEN I WAS BY MYSELF...

AH...

SORRY, I SAID TOO MUCH...

しょぼーん

DEPRESSED

WHY DO I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEM? I'M THE SICK ONE!

しょぼ～ん

DEPRESSED

HIMEMARU...

SNIFF...

THIS TIME I'LL MAKE A PERFECT MEDICINE AND HE'LL FALL FOR ME!

STALK

I CAN'T LET ONE MISTAKE GET ME DOWN!

THAT'S WHAT HE WAS PLAN-NING?

CRAZED

DAMN IT!!

わっ

WHAT IS HE, A WILD MONKEY!?

WHAT DOES HE MEAN, "HE'LL HEAL BY HIM-SELF"!?

UGH...I'M FEELING WORSE.

PLOP

DRIP

PLOP

DROP

DROP

DROP

DROP

AHH!

AHH!

AND NO ONE ELSE IS HERE...

I'M LOSING CONSCIOUS-NESS...

HUH!?

KAGARI-DONO...

EVEN THOUGH I KNEW YOU WOULD DISCI-PLINE ME!

I'M VERY SORRY FOR DIS-OBEYING YOU!

D-DON'T YELL...

...JUST COULDN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE; I WAS WORRIED.

BUT I...

EXCUSE ME...

PLOP

I THOUGHT IF I HID...

...THEN IT WOULDN'T BE INTER-FERING WITH YOUR WISH TO BE ALONE...

I CAN'T DO THAT.

I WON'T DISCIPLINE YOU.

I'LL BE FINE EVEN IF YOU LEAVE ME ALONE.

KISARABI AND HIMEMARU...

...THEY'RE BOTH TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE YOU BETTER.

NO ONE ELSE CAN SLEEP, EITHER.

...IS BECAUSE WE BOTH CARE FOR YOU SO MUCH...

AND THE REASON WE FOUGHT...

...IT'S TOO CRUEL TO TELL US NOT TO DO ANYTHING.

SO THAT'S WHY...

.....

ACHOO!

LET'S HAVE A TASTE...

THAT'S REALLY HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT ME?

THAT ALMOST SEEMS IMPOS-SIBLE...

THEY CARE ABOUT ME?

SHE FELL ASLEEP, AFTER ALL.

ZZZZ

S-SO HEAVY!

CHIRP

CHIRP

EVERYONE...

...DID THIS FOR ME?

THEY'RE NOT SLEEPING, THEY'RE ALL *SICK*!?

TREMBLE

COUGH COUGH

UGHH...

DON'T TELL ME...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE MEDICINE BACK-FIRED ON ME!

BUT IT'S BETTER FOR GIRLS TO BE THE ONES NURSED BACK TO HEALTH! ♡

I DON'T CARE IF MY BODY ROTS...

...AS LONG AS I KNOW MASTER IS HEALTHY AGAIN!

UGHH...

I'M SUCH A FAILURE!

I-I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT RUN DOWN FROM NURSING...

THAT'S NOT VERY CONVINCING WHEN YOU'RE BEING NURSED, TOO!

SHUT UP, HIMEMARU! YOU'RE SPOILED!

MY LORD, FEED ME! ♡

RAIZŌ SWORE HE WOULD NEVER GET SICK AGAIN AFTER THAT.

...IT'S MY FAULT, AFTER ALL.

IT'S OKAY...

Nursing Rebellion / End

HHMM...

TWITCH

MY LORD! ♡

FEED ME! ♡

AT THAT TIME...

WILL YOU KNOCK IT OFF, HIMEMARU!?

WELL, I STILL FEEL HOT. ♡

UNLIKE YOU, I'M DELICATE. ♡

WILL YOU STOP ACTING LIKE YOU'RE SICK JUST TO HOG MASTER!?

IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE YOUR FEVER WENT AWAY!

YOU HAD HIM DO IT WHILE YOU WERE SICK, TOO!

PULL

PULL

ANYWAY, STOP TRYING TO COERCE MASTER INTO FEEDING YOU!

WHAT'S WITH THAT OUTFIT?

GO COOL OFF OUTSIDE!

I TAKE MY EYES OFF YOU FOR A MINUTE AND YOU'RE ALREADY PLAYING WITH MASTER!

KNOCK IT OFF, YOU IDIOTS!

MY LORD...

IT'S DANGEROUS HERE.

KABUKI SEIGAN HAS INVADED THE KATANA CASTLE.

15
Uncertainty
Rebellion

IF YOU OBEY, IT'LL BE OVER SOON.

DON'T BE AFRAID, GIRL.

MY LORD WILL BE PERFORMING THE BLOOD RITUAL SOON.

...YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

SHIVER

AND AFTER THAT...

SLASH

SLASH

SLASH

THE ONE...

IS SHE AMONG THEM?

NAJA.

IF YOU MEAN THE ONE WHO DEFEATED KARIHA WITH *SHINTAIGO*, SHE IS NOT.

DRIP

YES, MY LORD.

THE LONGER SHE'S ABSENT, THE MORE ANXIOUS I GET. ♡

IF SHE LEFT THE KINGDOM, IT MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME.

MY MEN ARE SEARCHING FOR HER.

CRACK

EXAMINATION BY TOUCH

WAIT, HIMEMARU !!

NOW STOP WORRYING MASTER!

I KNEW YOU DIDN'T HAVE A FEVER ANYMORE!

STOP WHAT?

WHY DON'T *YOU* STOP IT?

YOU'VE BEEN GETTING ON MY NERVES EVER SINCE THEN!

SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF MASTER AND PERFORMING SHINTAIGO FOR NO REASON!

WELL, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

THERE'S NOTHING SCARIER THAN NOT BEING ABLE TO CONTROL YOUR OWN POWERS.

HEH HEH

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

OH, REALLY?

TH-THAT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT!

YOUR FEELINGS FOR MASTER...

...GOT SO OUT OF CONTROL YOU FORGOT YOUR PLACE.

YOU MUST KNOW THAT...

...THE REASON IT HAPPENED WAS BECAUSE OF YOUR HEART.

I DON'T WANNA HEAR ANYMORE!

STOP IT!!

GLEAM

THEN YOU BETTER GET YOURSELF STRAIGHT.

SO YOU REALIZE THAT "LOVE" ISN'T GOOD IN THIS SITUATION...

STOP IT!

BEFORE YOU BECOME A *FAILURE OF A KUNOICHI.*

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU-

KUNOICHI FAILURE

KUNOICHI FAILURE

KUNOICHI FAILURE

A FAILURE OF A KUNOICHI...

I'M EATING NORMAL—

OH, NOTHING! DON'T WORRY!

WHAT!?

WHAT'S WRONG, KAGARI-DONO? YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING.

D-DO

FSSHHH

CRAZED

UWAAHH!?

CRACK

TOUCH

Y-YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET SO EXCITED!

COUGH COUGH SPUTTER

HERE'S SOME TEA.

THANK YOU.

DON'T... TOUCH ME.

CLATTER

WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM, KAGARI!?

H- HOT!!

HA HA HA HA HA !

CLATTER

KLUNK

CLATTER

TMP

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE FOR A WHILE!

HURRY AND STOP HER, MY LORD!

YOU IDIOT! WE'RE LEAVING THE KINGDOM TODAY!

DON'T LOOK AT ME ANY- MORE, MY LORD!!

EWWW!

I-I CAN'T...

HE LOOKED AT ME!!

I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER THE SCARS FROM MY PAST...

UGHHH

THUD

MY LORD!?

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

行深般若波羅密多時

観・自・在・菩・薩

SO INEXPERI-ENCED...

I'LL FORGET EVERYTHING AS THE WATERFALL POUNDS ME...

...AND GET AHOLD OF MYSELF.

色不異空

空不異色

IT'S UNHEARD OF FOR A SHINOBI TO UNLEASH HER POWERS JUST BECAUSE OF *LOVE*!

色即空

空即色

GASP

是色

是空

WHAT DID I JUST SAY TO MY LORD?

I-I'M SO SORRY, MY LORD!

FSSHU

SEE? I'M THINK-ING ABOUT HIM AGAIN!

KLINK

WHY AM I LIKE THIS!?

AREN'T THOSE THE SAME WORDS THAT HAVE HURT MY LORD IN THE PAST?

"DON'T TOUCH ME." "DON'T LOOK AT ME."

KLINK

!

IT'S AWFULLY COLD TO BE DOING THAT.

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING.

I MIGHT BE OF SOME HELP.

I'M JUST A HUMBLE MONK, BUT...

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D BE HAPPY TO LISTEN TO YOUR TROUBLES.

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

RUMBLE

.....

GROOOWWLLL

GROOWWLLL

A MONK WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND MY PROB-LEMS...

NO THANK YOU!

HUUUUH!?

SHALL WE EAT TOGETHER?

I HAVEN'T EATEN LUNCH YET, EITHER.

IF YOU MUST LOOK FOR HER, TRY LOOKING AROUND THE POOL UNDER THE WATERFALL.

RUSTLE

I CAN'T BELIEVE KAGARI-DONO WOULD SAY SOME-THING LIKE THAT!

THIS IS TOO STRANGE!

SO YOUR FEELINGS GET STRONGER WHEN THIS PERSON LOOKS AT YOU?

I SEE...

SHE HAS A HABIT OF PARTAKING IN MISOGI WHEN SOMETHING'S TROUBLING HER.

IN THIS COLD WEATHER!?

YOU MUST BE *IN LOVE.*

PFFTTT

I CAN'T STAND IT WHEN HE GETS ALONG WITH OTHER WOMEN IN FRONT OF ME.

ONE OF THEM'S REALLY A GUY, THOUGH.

I DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR THAT!!

YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM THE TRUTH.

FIRST YOU MUST ADMIT IT TO YOURSELF.

AND THEN...

IT'S UNREASONABLE TO DENY SUCH FEELINGS.

...IF IT'S NOT POSSIBLE WITH HIM, YOU MUST *DIVERT* YOUR FEELINGS!

THE AWAKENING OF LOVE IS A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE FOR YOUNG, *BEAUTIFUL* MAIDENS!

BEAUTIFUL...

THOSE ARE THE ONLY WOMEN OF WORTH.

TH-THUMP

HOW CAN I DIVERT MY FEEL-INGS OF LOVE?

AHH! BEAUTIFUL BEAUTIFUL BEAUTIFUL

I'VE NEVER HAD ANYONE SAY THAT ABOUT ME BEFORE! ♡

WHAT!?

FIND SOMEONE NEW.

BECAUSE THE ONE YOU LOVE NOW...

...DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE THE *SLIGHTEST* BIT OF INTEREST IN YOU. ♡

WHAT IS THIS!?

KA-
KA-
KA-
KAGARI-DONO'S WITH ANOTHER MAN?

DOOOM

WHO IS HE?

DO YOU REALLY THINK HE HAS SERIOUS FEELINGS FOR YOU IF HE DOES THAT?

THINK ABOUT IT. HE FLIRTS WITH OTHER WOMEN RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.

SQUEEZE

YOU'RE NOT LIS-TENING, HUH?

PANIC

PAT
PAT

IF I HAD YOU...

SHIVER

IF IT WERE ME...

...I WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT OTHER WOMEN.

...I WOULDN'T BE LIKE THAT.

BLUSH

WHOOSH

!!?

ZOOM

CURL

ST-

STOP IT!

RUSTLE

I CAN'T DO THAT, MONK.

I COULD NEVER DISOBEY THAT AND GIVE MY HEART OR LIPS TO SOMEONE ELSE.

I'VE DEVOTED MYSELF TO FIGHTING FOR HIM.

TO ME, THAT'S THE SAME AS GIVING MY LIFE!

WAAA AHHH!

!?

THEN I GUESS I HAVE MY ANSWER.

TURN

SOME-ONE CAME TO GET YOU.

GO TO HIM.

. . . . .

!?

MY LORD !?

I WAS REJECTED. ♡

MY LORD!!

BAN

...AND WAS CAUGHT BY ENEMIES!?

MASTER CAME TO GET ME...

!?

UGHH...

TH-THIS ISN'T GOOD.

STRETCH

STRETCH

MY LORD!

SNAP

FSHUU

THANKS FOR SAVING M—

COUGH

K-KAGARI-DONO!?

THUD

THUD

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MY LORD?

TURN

.....

SILENCE

WHY ARE YOU TURNING AWAY?

WE'LL TALK LATER. LET ME TAKE CARE OF THEM.

WAHH!?

ZOOM

OOF.

UWAAHHH!?

WHOOSH

AGH!?

KLANK

SHE'S WEAK!?

I CAN'T USE IT.

MUTTER

KAGARI-DONO, DO "SHIN-TAIGO"!

OH, YEAH!

I'M LOOKING AT YOU!

PLONK

.....

WHA!? WHY!?

UUU

"THE ONE YOU LOVE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF INTEREST IN YOU. ♡ "

.....

I'M SCARED TO USE IT.

HUH?

SCARED...?

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE MY MASTER.

THE MORE I USE IT, THE MORE I FORGET MY PLACE.

MY HEART...

I FEEL MYSELF GROWING CLOSER TO YOU...

YOU KNOW I COULDN'T DO SUCH A THING!!

YOU SOUND JUST LIKE KISARABI-SAN!

HUH?

.....

CREEP

CREEP

.....

!!

SWISH

SO PLEASE RUN AWAY!

TURN

AS LONG AS YOU'RE SAFE, I DON'T CARE.

IF I RUN AWAY ALONE, WHAT ABOUT YOU!?

YOU HATE ME SO MUCH YOU CAN'T EVEN STAND TO LOOK AT ME?

OR IS IT BECAUSE...

I KNOW.

THAT'S NOT...

.....

THEN DO IT!

KYAAAAH!?

THUD

SHIVER

KYAA!

MY LORD!?

JUST LIKE YOU HAVE...

...SINCE THE FIRST TIME WE MET.

LOOK AT ME PROPERLY.

BLUSH

CAW

CAW

CAW

CRAAASHH

SHINTA-GOOO!!

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS YOUR "MASTER"!

SO JUST ACT NORMALLY...

...OKAY, KAGARI-DONO?

THANK YOU, KAGARI-DONO.

NOT AT ALL.

YES?

.....!

BY THE WAY...

THAT MAN...

YES...

MASTER'S FEELINGS MAKE ME SO HAPPY...

THAT'S NOT AN ORDER...

...IT'S A REQUEST.

あっ

AAHHH!

...MASTER DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING!

BLIT...

TWITCH

TMP

THUMP

SWIRL

INCREDIBLE.

SEIGAN-SAMA.

NAJA.

I LIKE THAT GIRL... AND HER POWER.

SHE MUST BE PART OF MY ARMY—MY COLLECTION.

To be continued...

Bonus manga *Ninja Girls*

SCORED HIGHEST "ANNOYING WOMAN" TIER

WAAAH!

I CHECKED OFF 25!!

WHAT DOES ALL 30 MEAN!?

WHAT, 27!?

OH!

THIS MONTH'S ISSUE OF *MAIDEN'S MANUAL* JUST CAME FROM IGA!

YOU'RE STILL READING THAT CHILDISH THING?

IT JUST MEANS YOU *CARE TOO MUCH* ABOUT MEN!

W-WELL, DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN, KAGARI.

THAT'S RIGHT! APPARENTLY MEN LIKE TO BE *IGNORED*!

MAIDEN'S MANUAL IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR KUNOICHI, INSTRUCTING ON ALL MATTERS OF THE HEART, INCLUDING SECRET TECHNIQUES GUARANTEED TO MAKE MEN FALL FOR YOU — FULLY LOADED WITH SPECIAL LOVE TECHNIQUES JUST FOR NINJAS! IT'S AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR EVERY KUNOICHI!

I'M HOME!

HMPH!

RATTLE

IGNORE

HMM, THIS MONTH'S THEME IS *"WOMEN ALL MEN HATE."*

TAKE THE "HOW ANNOYING ARE YOU?" QUIZ...

IGNORE...

DID I DO SOMETHING BAD?

FIDGET FIDGET

WHY? WHY ARE THEY IGNORING ME?

IGNORE!

CHECK OFF ANY OF THESE 30 STATEMENTS THAT APPLY TO YOU.

#1: YOU KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON ALL YOUR BOYFRIEND'S BEHAVIORS.
#2: YOU FIND YOURSELF PLACING RESTRICTIONS ON YOUR BOYFRIEND.
#3: YOU PUSH YOUR OWN IDEALS UPON YOUR BOYFRIEND.
#4: YOU WANT YOUR BOYFRIEND TO BE WITH YOU EVERY SECOND OF THE DAY.
#5: YOU WON'T LET YOUR BOYFRIEND SPEAK TO ANY OTHER WOMEN.

About the Creator

Hosana Tanaka

- Debuted after winning the Shōgakukan Newcomer Award.

- Received attention after first series Code Name: BF was serialized in 2004 in *Shūkan Shōnen Sunday*, a weekly manga magazine.

- 2005 brought the serialization of Ninja Girls in *Gekkan Shōnen Sirius*, a monthly manga magazine.

- Birthday: January 13. Zodiac Sign: Capricorn.

TRANSLATION NOTES

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Sengoku era

Sengoku jidai (Warring States Era) lasted from the mid-fifteenth century to the beginning of the seventeenth century. As its name suggests, it was a time of civil war in Japan, with regional lords (*daimyo*) taking control because of a weak central government. The most famous *daimyo* were Oda Nobunaga, known for his military prowess, and Tokugawa Ieyasu, who went on to become the first shogun of Japan's final shogunate.

Iga, page 3

Iga is a city located in Mie prefecture, Japan. It's the origin of one of the most famous ninja schools in Japan, Iga-style ninjutsu. The *kunoichi* in *Ninja Girls* often talk about the town of Iga, where they most likely were trained as ninjas. Modern-day Iga still holds on to its roots via its famous Iga Ninja Museum.

Ninpo, page 3

Ninpo literally means "ninja arts" or "ninja technique."

Shintaigo, page 3

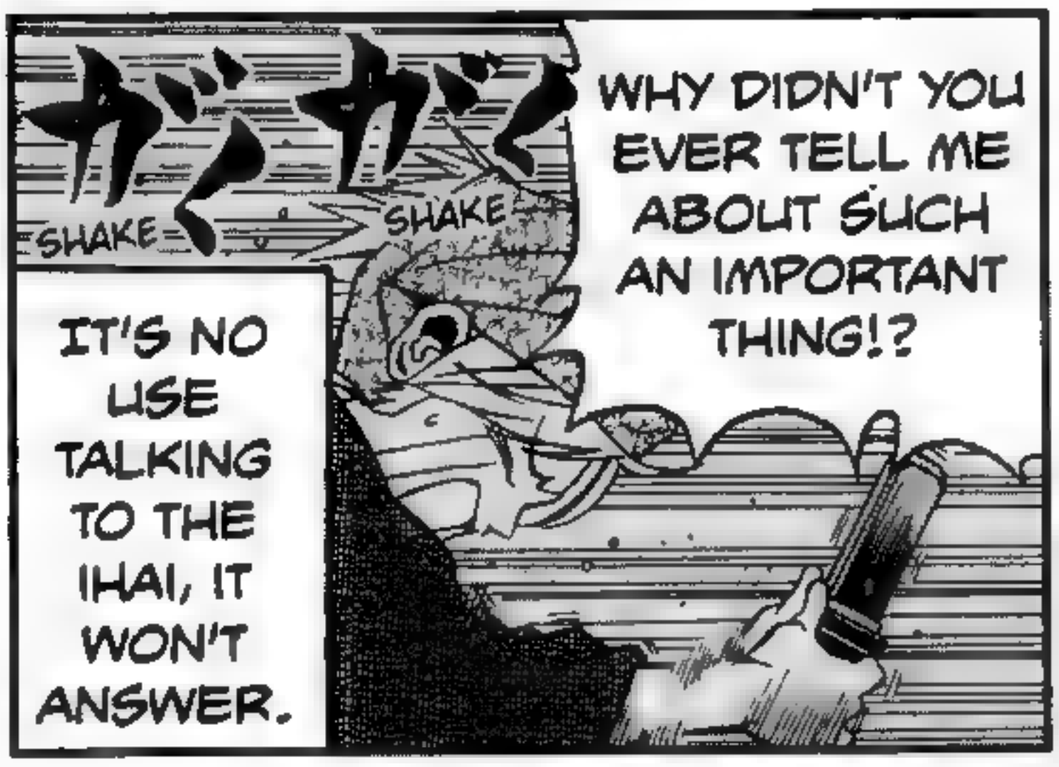
Kagari's special *ninpo* attack. It's written with the characters "god," "body," and "conjunction."

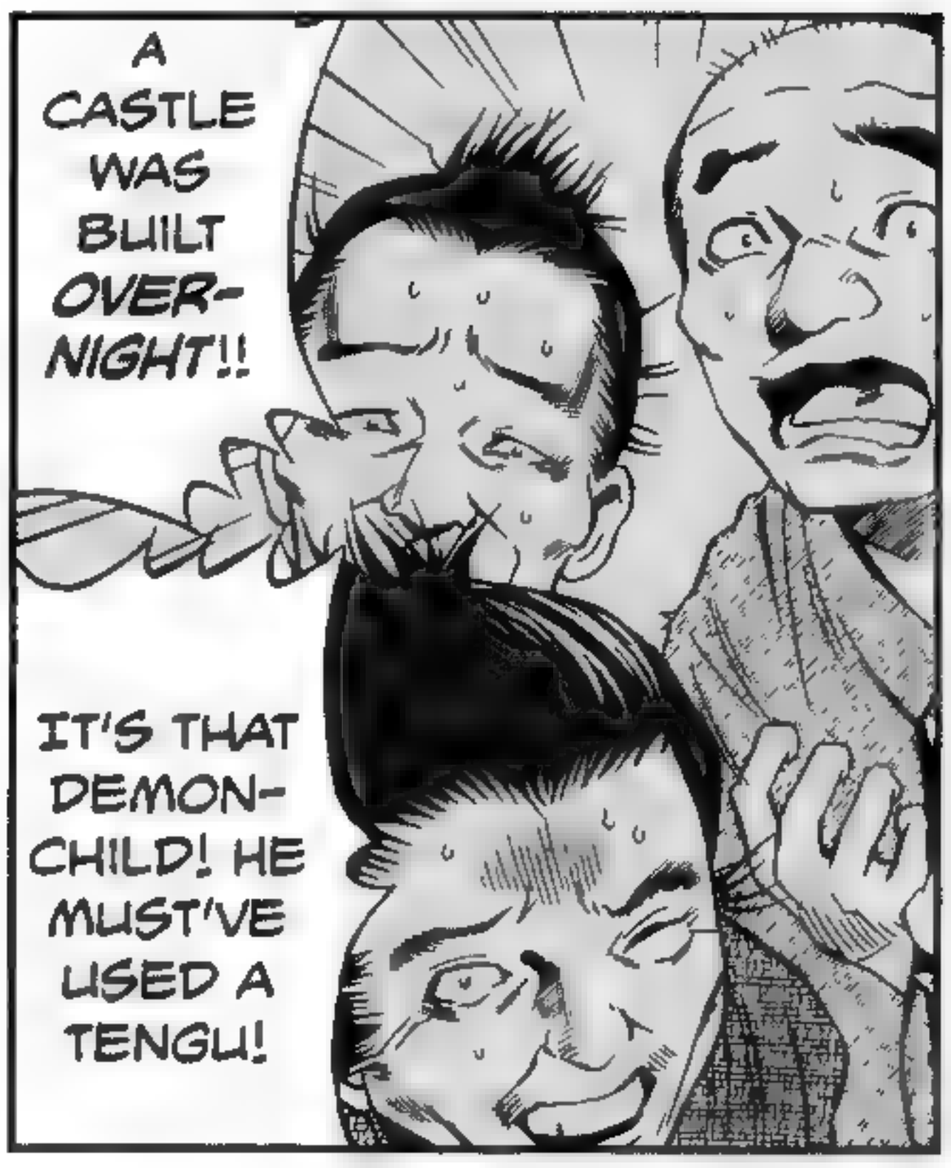
Kunoichi, page 34

A *kunoichi* is a female ninja. The kanji is written with strokes resembling the strokes in the kanji for "woman."

Ihai, page 50

An *ihai* is a mortuary tablet that's often placed on a Buddhist altar to honor a deceased loved one. It's usually a wood or stone tablet that's engraved with the deceased person's posthumous name, which is given to them by the Buddhist priest who performed their funerary rites.





Tengu, page 55

A supernatural creature, often depicted as a demon with an extremely long nose.

Shinobi, page 70

Another word for ninja. *Shinobi* was the more commonly used term for ninja until its usage declined in popularity after World War II.

Rasengan, page 78

Kisarabi's special *ninpo* attack. It's written with the characters meaning "wizard" and "eye."

Shamisen, page 92

A three-stringed musical instrument played with a plectrum.

Mugen, page 93

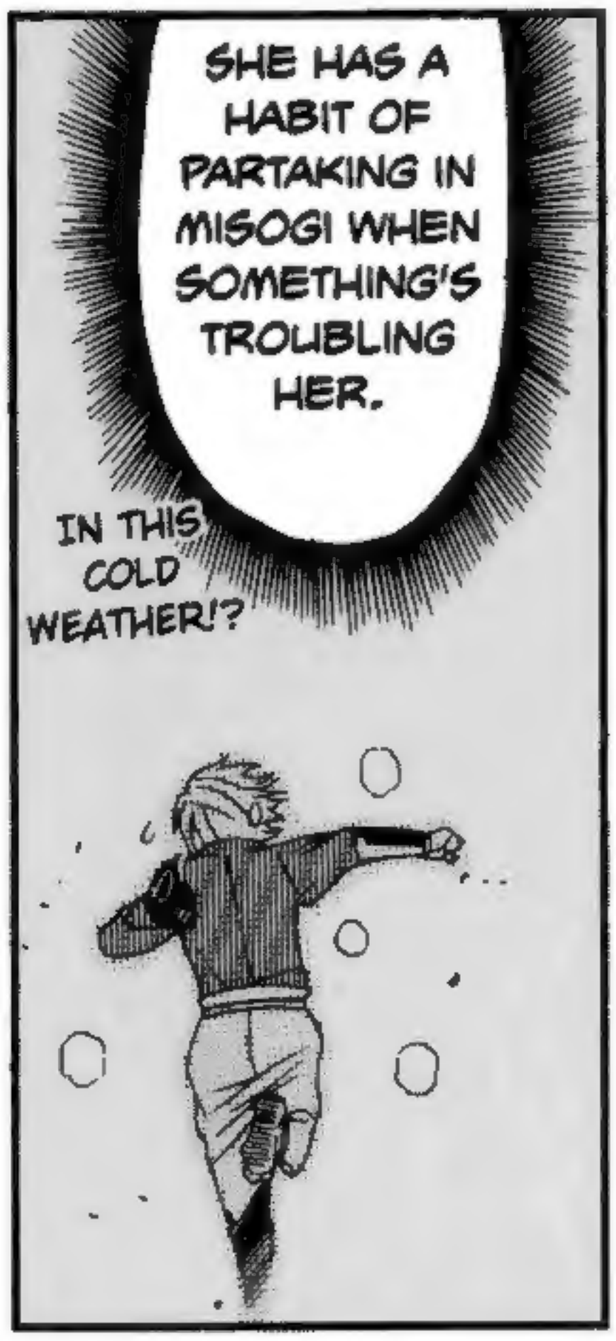
Himemaru's special *ninpo* attack. It's written with the characters meaning "dream" and "bow string."

Heart of Perfect Wisdom Sutra, page 166

Kagari is chanting excerpts of the Heart of Perfect Wisdom Sutra, a Buddhist mantra. In order to maintain authenticity, we have retained the Japanese. Here is the Japanese romanization followed by a literal translation:

kan ji zai bō satsu
gyō shin han nya ha ra mitsu ta ji
shiki fu i kuu
kuu fu i shiki
shiki soku ze kuu
kuu soku ze shiki

The all-compassionate bodhisattva Avalokitesvara
was practicing profound Prajna wisdom
form is emptiness
emptiness is form
form does not differ from emptiness
emptiness does not differ from form



Misogi, 170

Misogi is a rite of purification that involves dousing one's body with cold water, usually under waterfalls.

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